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2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
3	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA ALEXANDRIA DIVISION		
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5	ANAS ELHADY, et al.,)		
6	Plaintiffs,) Civil No. 16-375		
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8	CHARLES H. KABLE,) Alexandria, Virginia et al.,) February 14, 2020		
9	Defendants.)		
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12	TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING BEFORE THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. TRENGA		
13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE		
14	<u>APPEARANCES</u> :		
15	For the Plaintiffs: Amy Powell		
16	Christopher Healy Tony Coppolino		
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18	For the Defendants: Gadeir Abbas Justin Sadowsky		
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20	Court Reporter: PATRICIA A. KANESHIRO-MILLER, RMR, CRR		
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23	Proceedings reported by stenotype shorthand. Transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.		
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1 PROCEEDINGS 2 (10:03 a.m.)3 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Civil Action Number 1:16-CV-375, Elhady, et al, v. Piehota, et al. 4 5 Counsel, will you please note your appearances for 6 the record. 7 MS. POWELL: Amy Powell for the government, Your 8 Honor. With me at counsel table are Christopher Healy and 9 Tony Coppolino. 10 THE COURT: All right. 11 MS. POWELL: With the Court's permission, Mr. Healy 12 is going to present with respect to the motion to stay, and I 13 will answer any other questions the Court has. 14 THE COURT: All right. Very good. Welcome. 15 MR. ABBAS: Good morning, Your Honor. Here for the 16 plaintiffs, myself, Gadeir Abbas, and Justin Sadowsky. I 17 will be presenting with regards to both motions. 18 THE COURT: All right. We are here on a motion to 19 stay and also on a motion to recertify the procedural due 2.0 process claim. 21 Mr. Abbas, let me ask you: Are you taking any 22 position on whether the Court should recertify the other 23 issues that it had previously certified? 24 MR. ABBAS: Yes, Your Honor. Our position is that 25 the Court shouldn't certify any matter for any kind of appeal

1 until the issue of what remedy the Court is going to issue is 2 resolved completely. 3 I think that is implicit in the Court's December 27th The Court did enter a final judgment with regards to 4 order. 5 the substantive due process, the nondelegation claim --THE COURT: 6 Right. 7 MR. ABBAS: -- but withheld doing so. And Your Honor did certify it previously for an appeal, but the government 8 9 is not intending, it appears, to comply with any kind of 10 revision that -- with the DHS TRIP processing. So I think 11 this Court's firm intervention and injunction that executes 12 the September 4th opinion is what is needed here, and that is 13 a question that remains outstanding, what relief are the 14 plaintiffs going to get. 15 THE COURT: I understand. But I take your position 16 is that irrespective of whether the Court certifies or 17 doesn't recertify the procedural due process issue, you do 18 not want the Court to recertify the substantive due process 19 claim, equal protection and the nondelegation --2.0 MR. ABBAS: We do not intend to appeal any of those 21 dismissed claims. We are not appealing. The final day is 22 today, but we're not intending to appeal those claims. And 23 part of it is --24 THE COURT: Well, there is no appeal period at this 25 point, is there?

1 MR. ABBAS: I think that is right for substantive due 2 process, equal protection, and nondelegation --3 THE COURT: I vacated those certified questions. 4 MR. ABBAS: I believe Your Honor only certified the 5 questions that regard the procedural due process claim. 6 I apologize --7 THE COURT: I will look back --MR. ABBAS: And I think the only matter now before 8 9 the Court is the procedural due process claim, which is --10 because there is only one claim, we respectfully suggest that 11 it makes sense for this Court to dispose of all ancillary --12 THE COURT: I understand. Let me hear first from the defendants --13 14 MR. ABBAS: Sure. 15 THE COURT: -- on the motion to stay. 16 MR. HEALY: Thank you, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: Yes. 18 MR. HEALY: Your Honor, the government has moved for 19 a stay here in order to protect its ability to defend the 2.0 current process at the Fourth Circuit and to prevent 21 irreversible damage to national security. The stay would 22 allow the Fourth Circuit to rule on these important questions 23 of national security before the Government is ordered to 24 apply new and, in the government's view, dangerous procedures 25 to plaintiffs if they are on the --

1 THE COURT: Well, aren't you collapsing the process? 2 The Court ordered that you develop and present to the Court 3 revised procedures. The Court always has the ability to enter orders, as appropriate, protecting from some of the 4 5 concerns you have pending the outcome of the appeal, doesn't 6 it? 7 MR. HEALY: With respect, Your Honor, that is not our reading of the Court's order --8 9 THE COURT: No, I understand. But certainly the 10 Court has that ability. 11 MR. HEALY: The Court would certainly have that 12 ability, Your Honor, but I believe that the order that is 13 before us requires the government both to develop procedures 14 and apply those procedures to any plaintiffs who are on the 15 TSDB, and in our view, that is irreparable harm both to --16 THE COURT: Well, I believe the order requires that you present to the Court for its review as to their 17 18 constitutional adequacy. 19 MR. HEALY: What the order says, Your Honor, with 2.0 respect, is that defendants promptly review the listing of 21 any named plaintiff currently listed in the TSDB according to 22 additional procedures to be added to a revised DHS TRIP 23 process. 24 THE COURT: Right. 25 To our reading, that --MR. HEALY:

1 THE COURT: How does that in and of itself affect 2 national security? 3 MR. HEALY: That in itself affects national 4 security because the --5 THE COURT: You're worried about the disclosures to 6 the plaintiffs. 7 MR. HEALY: That is correct. And we've been ordered 8 to both develop a new process and apply that process to 9 plaintiffs. That is an order to disclose something to 10 plaintiffs, to make some particular disclosure to plaintiffs, 11 and in particular, the considerations, the particular 12 considerations that the Court offers that orders the 13 government to consider in its order include a threshold 14 showing necessary to determine whether any such plaintiff is 15 entitled to a review, the notice and explanation given to any 16 plaintiff determined not to meet that threshold, notice and 17 opportunity to respond to any derogatory information, notice 18 to be given to plaintiffs with respect to their TSDB status 19 upon completion of that review, and the opportunity for 2.0 review and/or appeal of any adverse determination. 21 Consideration of those particular factors and the application 22 of a revised redress process to plaintiffs would necessarily 23 require some modicum of further disclosure to plaintiffs --THE COURT: Well, if we back off the disclosure piece 24 25 of it, what irreparable harm would there be, requiring the

1 government to basically continue what I understand it has already done substantially, which is review these procedures 2 3 and come up with revised procedures that they think would address the Court's decision? 4 5 MR. HEALY: So a couple of points on that, Your 6 I think that if Your Honor were to change the order 7 and remove the requirement for applying new procedures to 8 plaintiffs, I think it would create a couple of problems, 9 some of them practical, some of them legal. Number one, I 10 think it could potentially create jurisdictional problems in 11 that the Court might be engaging in an advisory opinion and requiring -- and it could, in fact, have sort of 12 13 separation-of-powers problems by requiring the government to 14 act in the abstract to create a new process for the Court's 15 review. 16 THE COURT: Well, it seems to me there are two 17 One is developing and proposing the procedures. The 18 other is the implementation of the procedures. I don't 19 understand why you can't proceed with one, with the Court 20 reserving on the second issue pending the outcome --21 MR. HEALY: Right, and my first point is right now we 22 have been ordered to do both --23 THE COURT: I understand. 24 MR. HEALY: -- that is point one. 25 Point two, we don't believe it is reasonable to

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expect that multiple agencies will expend months coming up with a draft policy that we simply don't think is legally necessary or required. And I understand Your Honor has a different point of view on that and has ordered us otherwise on that question.

But with respect to the likelihood of success on the merits here, courts have gone both ways on this question, and in particular there are two circuit court opinions now that disagree with Your Honor's conclusion and that goes to -- the required showing is whether or not we have a substantial case on the merits for the purposes of a stay on appeal, and we have made that showing here.

THE COURT: Well, I don't think the issue is whether it is a substantial case; it is whether you have made a strong showing you're going to likely prevail.

MR. HEALY: Just to be clear, the standard is not that Your Honor needs to disagree with your prior opinion --

THE COURT: No, I understand --

MR. HEALY: -- or change your mind. The question is whether we have a substantial case. And there are two circuit court opinions that would militate in our favor, as well as numerous district court opinions that go the other way. And so there is at least a substantial question on the merits, and a strong showing on the merits, that we would prevail on appeal. And it is at least -- would be a good use

1 of both judicial resources and defendants' resources to wait 2 until we have the input from the Fourth Circuit until we are 3 ordered to go down that road. THE COURT: Well, the Watchlisting Advisory Council, 4 5 that's what they're there for, correct, to review these 6 procedures and consider issues relating to these procedures? 7 MR. HEALY: Among other aspects, it is one of the 8 reasons --9 THE COURT: Right. 10 MR. HEALY: -- that they're there, yes. 11 THE COURT: That is what their job is, apparently. 12 MR. HEALY: Yes, but this would be a very large and 13 time-consuming undertaking. And it is one that, as you have 14 seen in our status report, is being undertaken, and we are 15 complying -- in the process of complying with the order. 16 going down that road will take a lot of time and effort. And 17 the fact is that as this appeal proceeds in the Fourth 18 Circuit, the Fourth Circuit may disagree with Your Honor's 19 conclusion and rule in our favor, in which case all of that 2.0 effort will be for nought, or they may agree with Your Honor 21 and not rule in our favor and, instead, apply different 22 particular factors that the government should consider, in 23 which case we will have to start from this process again. 24 I think all of that goes to irreparable harm, goes to 25 likelihood of success on the merits, and also goes to the

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balancing that Your Honor has to do when facing a motion to stay, to look at the irreparable harm to defendants and to the public interest and balance that with the harm to the plaintiffs. And harm to the plaintiffs here, if any has been shown, is minimal. And the reason that that is so is because of the fact that what we have been ordered to do is create more process. None of that process necessarily will result in the change of any particular plaintiff's watchlist status. So I would refer Your Honor to the Al Magaleh case that is cited on page 10, where the DEC did that kind of balancing and said, okay, the plaintiffs in that particular case were detained. This was a habeas case, and that was unequivocally a continuing harm to plaintiff, but the national security interests in that case were such that a stay on appeal was merited. And so for those reasons I think the state here is similarly merited.

One last point, I think that there is a practical consideration here in that defendants, with respect to the policy process, the policy process that we would implement now, absent a stay, absent final ruling and the exhaustion of the appeals process from the Fourth Circuit, might look significantly different than the process right now while we are in the midst of an appeal.

With respect to irreparable harm, there are all the reasons that Your Honor has already seen with respect to

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irreparable harm under summary judgment. However, plaintiffs indicate that they believe that the balance of harms has already been decided in their favor on summary judgment. And with respect, the question before the Court here is just a different one. The question at summary judgment was the balance of the interests to the party for the purpose of remedying a prudential deprivation of liberty interests under due process; whereas, here the question is whether national security would be irreparably harmed if the government is ordered to continue through with this national security process -- with this process of changing the DHS TRIP procedures.

We have already explained why such disclosures would risk harm to national security. The question now before the Court is whether an appeal should proceed before defendants have had the chance to get the final word from the Fourth Circuit on that. This is not simply with respect to disclosures that Your Honor's order would require to any plaintiffs who are on the TSDB, but also disclosures that would be required to those plaintiffs who are not on the TSDB. The order specifically contemplates particular consideration given to notice and any explanation given to any plaintiff determined not to meet the threshold showing for notice. So that itself, as described in the Groh Declaration, at paragraph 66, that was attached to our

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opening summary judgment motion, describes why notification to a particular plaintiff that that person is not on the list would also inform adversaries about the kinds of persons that are of interest or not of interest to the government.

THE COURT: That's the piece that I don't quite understand because the critical component of that requirement criteria is coming up with what would trip the qualification to have your status reviewed. I know the government keeps talking about how it would be a problem if anybody who thinks they may be on the list without any demonstration of any consequence could simply ask and find out if they're on the list or not. So it seems to me that a critical component of this revised procedure would be to come up with what criteria, what impact would be sufficient as a threshold matter to allow or qualify that person to have their status reviewed.

MR. HEALY: So I think this presents a very difficult question, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I understand.

MR. HEALY: But I think that the reason that this would present harm is a significant one. Even if, let's say, there were a threshold where you only trip this process if you're stopped five times in the last six months, let's just create a hypothetical.

THE COURT: Enhanced screening.

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MR. HEALY: Enhanced screening, yes.

Some people who go through that threshold might be on the list, some might not be on the list. If some of those individuals go through the process and learn their status and some go through that process and do not learn their status, the same harms apply to that narrower universe of persons. So I think that there is still harm with respect to a threshold. You're narrowing the universe slightly, but there may be many people who would learn their non-status through notification under that procedure even if they trip the threshold in a way that would harm national security.

Next point, Your Honor, is that defendants would be irreparably harmed given the fact that moving forward would likely moot the case on appeal. Plaintiffs suggest in their opposition that the government may appeal an injunction that forces to modify its redress procedures. As I've explained before, we believe that's exactly what we are faced with here, which is the reason that we have appealed. There is a real risk that the government will be forced to take the very action if this case is not appealed — is not stayed, rather, that it would be arguing on appeal should not be required, and that would likely moot the case. So that is also an irreparable harm.

THE COURT: Run that by me again. Why would it potentially moot the case?

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MR. HEALY: Because if the government is complying with procedures and making disclosures that they are arguing in the Court of Appeals is not required, that might actually provide plaintiffs with the redress that they're seeking and moot out the case. It would essentially -- could waive our arguments that doing these things is simply not possible and not -- can't be done consistently with national security.

THE COURT: All right.

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MR. HEALY: I'm sure, as Your Honor understands, the question of what process, if any, could be provided to the plaintiffs consistent with national security concerns is a deeply difficult question. Any objective standard for a threshold determination that would trigger more notice would likewise provide further information to adversaries about who the government does or does not consider a threat. We've been ordered, in essence, to come up with a revised redress process that the defendants in their considered judgment believe would risk disclosures that would harm our ability to fight terrorism. At the very least, and particularly given the weight of the case law in defendant's favor on the legal question, the gravity of this issue merits a stay.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Let me hear also from the defendants on the certification issue.

MS. POWELL: I don't have a great deal to add to our

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papers, Your Honor. I don't think plaintiffs engaged with the 1292(b)(2) standard.

THE COURT: What do you think certifying the question as to what is already before the Fourth Circuit --

MS. POWELL: So we think that the current notice of appeal is adequate to appeal all of these issues, to be clear, Your Honor. And we have asked for the 1292(b)(2) certification as well as sort of a belts-and-suspenders approach to make sure that all the issues can be before the Fourth Circuit in case they disagree.

THE COURT: Okay.

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MS. POWELL: The only point I would emphasize in our briefs is that plaintiffs simply haven't engaged with that standard, an independent basis for jurisdiction. Thus, even if we were wrong about the other bases for jurisdiction, as plaintiffs argue, that would be more reason to certify under 1292(b)(2), so that the Fourth Circuit could weigh in on this meaningful divergence of legal opinion over how to analyze these issues, which necessarily hangs over all of the remaining issues in this case.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Abbas.

MR. ABBAS: This is what the government asks for.

The government asked in its remedy brief to have the opportunity to adjust its watchlisting practices in light of this Court's September 4th decision. We lost. We asked in

our remedies briefing for specific injunctions regarding this, that, and the other. We didn't get that. They got an opportunity from this Court to propose a revised set of watchlisting practices in light of the Court's unequivocal September decision. And instead of doing that, they filed an appeal that I believe the reason they want the certification is because the appeal is defective and we're going to be back before the Court fully, but this Court has the discretions to grant the certification for interlocutory appeal if it so chooses. We're not arguing that the Court lacks the authority to certify. We're saying that it is not — it doesn't make sense given the circumstances of the case.

The question of what to do --

THE COURT: Well, you don't want it certified because, in your view, without the certification there's not a valid appeal.

MR. ABBAS: Yes, Your Honor, exactly. The whole matter will be before this Court. And I think that's especially important because we're not appealing anything else. There is no separate -- you know, the opposing counsel makes the point in their reply that, oh, you know, if they're going to file an appeal on the dismissed counts, the equal protection, the substantive due process, the nondelegation claim, then there is going to be something in the Fourth Circuit anyways, so the interlocutory certification will put

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more of it in the Fourth Circuit. But that is not what is going on. Here, the only claim that exists and the only claim that is live after today is the procedural due process claim. And what the government is proposing is to split that procedural due process claim into two pieces. The liability piece, send it to the Fourth Circuit. The remedies piece stays with the district court. And then they want to stay the remedies piece. They're just trying to take it out of this Court's hands. That's what is going on.

And there has never been a factual record about a watchlist case as the factual record that is before this Court. That's something that the Tenth Circuit noted explicitly, that the case — that the plaintiff in Abdi, the appellant in Abdi, the facts were not analogous, were not comparable to the facts assembled here. When the government says that the harm to plaintiffs is minimal, they're overlooking undisputed facts that show Hassan Shibly, because of their illegal watchlist, Hassan Shibly was handcuffed in front of his grandmother, and she was so shooken she had to be rushed to the hospital. That's the harm to the plaintiffs.

What the government has been doing for years now is they have been a moving target in many ways. The disclosure -- their reluctance to disclose the watchlist status to this Court or to anybody else, their reluctance is,

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particular to this case, probably because it is unhelpful to their litigation position. In a case in Oregon, the Fikre matter that is pending before a federal court in Oregon, they -- they -- of their own volition, they asked the Court's permission to disclose watchlist status to the Court and to the attorneys only. And so the -- they're operating a secret government watchlist that is disseminated to every single law enforcement agency, to more than 500 private companies, to more than 60 foreign countries, and without this Court's firm intervention, without firm deadlines on what they're going to -- they're going to keep on evading a final decision about their illegal watchlist.

They say that it is a very large and time-consuming undertaking. We did not -- the plaintiffs did not ask the federal government to build a global secret terrorist watchlist. The defendants did that. And in making that choice, they're subject to the Constitution. This Court has said that the way that they're operating their global watchlist is illegal. And so even if it's a time-consuming undertaking, they have to do it, it is the federal government. And you know, there's been a little bit of opaqueness with regard to this Watchlisting Advisory Council. Sometimes it is like an independent actor, other times it is not. But the undisputed facts are that this is the FBI's decision. The FBI controls the watchlist. The FBI is

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operating the database. The FBI chooses what the inclusion standard is. The FBI decides what information to provide the other participants in the watchlisting process. So only the FBI is a defendant, and so it is unfair for the government to be pointing at nonparties and blaming nonparties for the delays when it is within the authority's -- it is within the authority of the defendants that are before this Court to execute the relief that this Court has granted. So, in addition to the DHS revisions that this Court proposed, there are discrete injunctive elements that if the Court -- I'm sorry -- if the federal government refuses to make any alterations, there are a few discrete injunctive elements that this Court could issue in short order. One of those is with regard to the inclusion standard. This Court said, "The vagueness of the standard for inclusion in the TSDB, coupled with the lack of any meaningful restraint on what constitutes grounds for placement on the watchlist, constitutes in essence the absence of any ascertainable standard for inclusion and exclusion."

This Court found that the inclusion standard essentially is not an inclusion standard. So it could enjoin the use of the current inclusion standard, and it's up to the government to come up with something new, and then if they come up with something new, it will be reviewed in normal course.

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THE COURT: All right.

MR. ABBAS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Counsel, I will give you the last word.

MR. HEALY: Just a couple of quick points, Your

Honor.

Number one, the threshold question here is a hard one, and it's exactly the type of question that the Fourth Circuit might rule on. So that isn't exactly a response to something that plaintiff said, but it is another point I wanted to add.

With respect to the question of what plaintiff contends is a defective appeal, that question is not before this Court. We don't think that question has anything to do with the disputes before the Court.

Plaintiff's counsel mentioned that he believes the facts of Abdi were not comparable. Numerous of the injuries claimed in Abdi are exactly the same as numerous injuries claimed in this case. Yes, the Tenth Circuit distinguished some facts of this case, but the legal questions before the Court were very much the same, and so I don't think that that is any reason not to grant a stay.

Fikre, the case that Mr. Abbas mentioned, was a completely different circumstance in which the plaintiff in that case had been notified of his no-fly-list status already prior to the case -- you know, entirely before the

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circumstance that Mr. Abbas is mentioning. Here, we have 20 plaintiffs who have never been given notice of any status whatsoever, and so it presents a different circumstance.

With that and for the other reasons I have already mentioned, this Court should grant the stay.

Thank you.

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THE COURT: Thank you.

I have reviewed the pleadings and issues in this case and the argument here. The Court is in a position to rule on these.

Here, the defendants have filed a motion to stay this Court's Order dated December 18, 2019, and also to recertify the Court's procedural due process claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1292(b).

In the Court's December 18th and December 27th order, the Court also directed the defendants to promptly review the listing of any named plaintiff currently listed in the TSDB, Terrorism Screening Database, according to different procedures to be added to a revised DHS TRIP process that are reasonably calculated to provide the required procedural due process, together with the creation of an adequate administrative record, with particular consideration given to the following factors: The threshold showing necessary to determine whether any plaintiff is entitled to such a review and the notice and explanation given to any plaintiff

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determined not to meet that threshold; secondly, the notice and opportunity to respond to any derogatory information; the notice to be given plaintiffs with respect to their TSBD status upon completion of that review; and fourth, the opportunity for review and/or appeal of any adverse determination.

The Court further directed that the defendants disclose to the Court the revised procedures and the status of the named plaintiffs with respect to any TSDB listing at the conclusion of the ordered review, and further ordered that the submission of a status report within 45 days of the revised final order as to the revised DHS TRIP procedures and defendants' review of the plaintiffs' placement on the TSDB under those revised procedures.

On January 31, 2020, the defendants filed a notice of appeal from the Court's Orders dated December 18th and the judgment entered on December 19th, and also its order dated December 27, 2019, together with all prior orders and decisions that merge into those orders. The plaintiffs have opposed both motions.

On February 10th, the defendants filed a status report concerning the government's progress in developing the revised procedures with respect to the plaintiffs in this action. In that status report, the government advised that this review and development is being conducted at the agency

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level and coordinated through the Watchlisting Advisory

Council; and the government has taken the following steps to

comply with the Court's revised final order:

First, the government has identified which, if any, of the plaintiffs are currently on the TSDB, and the Terrorist Screening Center has assessed the current status of any such individuals based on available information and has made whatever changes are necessary, if any.

Secondly, the government has commenced an inter-agency deliberative process to propose and evaluate options for revised procedures to be applied to a review of any plaintiffs' watchlist status, taking into consideration the four issues enumerated by the Court, as well as other concerns described in the Court's summary judgment opinion. Towards that end, members of the Watchlisting Advisory Council have begun the intra- and inter-agency deliberative process of evaluating the feasibility and policy implications of changes to the redress process and have already conducted multiple meetings to propose, discuss, and evaluate possible changes to the redress process or other changes to the watchlisting system, with a view towards better enabling the Watchlisting Advisory Council participants to present and evaluate options for addressing the revised final order, and agencies have formulated specific proposals for consideration.

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Third, the Watchlisting Advisory Council is scheduled to convene for its first quarterly meeting within the next few weeks, at which it is anticipated they will discuss and evaluate specific proposals generated by ongoing deliberative process. And if the revised final order is not stayed, the defendants will be in a better position to estimate the completion of this process once the scheduled Watchlisting Advisory Meeting has taken place.

In evaluating the motion for a stay, the Court has considered the well-settled requirements for such a stay:

First, whether the moving party has made a strong showing that it's likely to succeed on the merits; second, whether the applicant will be irreparably harmed/injured absent a stay; third, whether the issuance of the stay will substantially injure the other parties interested in the proceedings; and fourth, where the public interest lies.

Based on the record, the Court concludes, first, that the government has not made a sufficiently strong showing that it will succeed on the merits. In that regard, the Court emphasizes the important nature of this claim -- United States citizens who have neither been convicted nor charged with any crimes being placed on a secret government watchlist that is distributed to tens of thousands of law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies both domestically and abroad, with no real opportunity to contest on what basis

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they were placed on that list. Although the consequences of being placed on that list vary in degree and severity, there is no doubt that a person who is on that list, whether he knows it or not, has had his life affected in significant ways. In assessing the government's prospects on appeal, the Court has reviewed the Tenth Circuit case of Abdi v. Wray, which considered whether a particular plaintiff in that case had demonstrated a protectable liberty interest triggering procedural due process protections beyond those provided in the current DHS TRIP. Finding that the plaintiff had not sufficiently demonstrated injury from his placement on the watchlist, the Court specifically distinguished the facts in that case from those presented in this case with respect to at least some of the named plaintiffs without opining on the merits of this case.

It is also worth noting that, as the government conceded in the *Mohammed* case, the no-fly-list component of the watchlist represents an unprecedented application of Executive Branch authority in the name of national security through secret administrative proceedings based on undisclosed information. Much could be said about the watchlist itself, and the liberty interest analysis under *Mathews v. Eldridge* has not been squarely addressed by either the Fourth Circuit or the Supreme Court within the precise context of anything akin to the watchlist.

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With respect to the second factor, whether the government will experience irreparable harm in the absence of a stay, the Court begins by observing that the Court's ordered appealed from does not by its term impose any immediate consequences on the government that threaten national security or any other significant government interest. Rather, the order simply directs the government to prepare and propose to the Court revised procedures in light of its resolution of those legal issues. One can say that the government is impacted by the effort necessary to engage in that process, but central to the Court's willingness to enter an appealable interlocutory order, under 28 U.S.C. 2201, which was discretionary on the part of the Court, was the specific authorization, under Section 2202, to continue to deal with any remaining claims or any further or necessary relief based on the declarations and orders issued; and that an appeal as to the legal merits could proceed in tandem with the development of revised procedures with the Court having the ability to fashion, as necessary, appropriate orders pertaining to those revised procedures that protects any significant government national security interests pending the outcome of the appeals. And there is always the possibility that defendants, upon conducting their review, might conclude they could implement revised procedures independent of the outcome of the issues on

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appeal.

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This case has been pending for far longer than what typically happens in this court, and there is an interest in moving forward in a way that allows this case to resolve itself sufficiently. For those reasons, the Court concludes, for the reasons just mentioned, that the defendants have not made a sufficient showing it would suffer irreparable harm were the final order not stayed and they were required to continue what they have already substantially started.

On the other hand, the Court finds that a stay would seriously, if not irreparably, harm plaintiffs since it would delay the adoption of constitutionally adequate procedures for the Court's resolution of those issues affirmed on appeal.

Finally, for all of the reasons stated above, the Court finds that the public interest is served by not granting the stay. There is a public interest in resolving these very important issues as expeditiously as possible, and until the government proposes revised procedures for the Court to review following which it can enter orders which themselves can be appealed and consolidated with the pending issues on appeal, the matter will only drag on even longer than it has.

So for all the above reasons, the Court denies the motion to stay.

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The Court will, however, recertify the procedural due process issue, which essentially duplicates the issue already presented by way of the revised final order. The Court, also, is going to review its prior order, and if it has not vacated that certification, it is going to recertify the remaining issues, and the plaintiffs can determine whether to appeal those issues as it deems appropriate. These certifications, again, will more efficiently consolidate this litigation going forward.

Finally, the Court, as inherent in the Court's rulings, will require the government to comply with the Court's revised final orders, the revised procedures, and will at this point require the government to submit its proposed revised procedures within 90 days absent a sufficient cause for further extensions. The defendants have been considering these issues for years, and under the circumstances, the Court believes 90 days is sufficient time for the defendants to complete their deliberative review. To the extent the defendants believe that these revised procedures or any other information required to be submitted to the Court should be placed under seal or submitted ex parte or in camera should accompany those submissions with an appropriate order.

So, for all those reasons, the Court denies the motion to stay, the Court grants the motion to recertify.

-29-And the Court will issue an order. 1 2 Anything further? 3 MR. ABBAS: No, Your Honor. Thank you. 4 MS. POWELL: Two quick questions, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: Yes. MS. POWELL: One, a point of clarification. Is the 6 7 Court not ordering us currently to apply the revised 8 procedures? 9 THE COURT: Yes. 10 MS. POWELL: And second, defendants also asked for a 11 14-day administrative stay. 12 THE COURT: I don't see any need for that. Nothing 13 is going to happen within 14 days. You can apply to the 14 Fourth Circuit. 15 All right. Thank you. 16 Counsel is excused. 17 (Proceedings concluded) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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1	CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER		
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3	I, Patricia A. Kaneshiro-Miller, certify that the		
4	foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of		
5	proceedings in the above-entitled matter.		
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8	/s/ Patricia A. Kaneshiro-Miller	February 18, 2020	
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10	PATRICIA A. KANESHIRO-MILLER	DATE	
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25:6 apologize [1] - 4:6 / ability [6] - 4:19, 5:3, 5:10, 5:12, 14:18, appeal [32] - 2:25, 3:8, 3:20, 3:22, **/s** [1] - 30:8 3:24, 5:5, 6:20, 8:11, 8:25, 9:17, 10:14, above-entitled [1] - 30:5 10:23, 11:15, 13:14, 13:15, 13:21, 15:6, 1 abroad [1] - 24:25 16:6, 16:7, 16:9, 16:16, 16:22, 20:12, absence [2] - 19:18, 26:2 22:5, 22:16, 25:5, 26:17, 27:1, 27:14, **10**[1] - 10:10 27:22. 28:7 absent [4] - 10:20, 24:13, 28:14 appealable [1] - 26:12 10:03 [1] - 2:2 abstract [1] - 7:14 10th [1] - 22:21 appealed [4] - 13:18, 13:20, 26:4, accompany [1] - 28:22 1292(b) [1] - 21:14 27:21 according [2] - 5:21, 21:18 1292(b)(2 [3] - 15:2, 15:7, 15:17 appealing [2] - 3:21, 16:19 act [1] - 7:14 14 [2] - 1:8, 29:13 appeals [2] - 10:21, 26:22 action [2] - 13:20, 22:24 14-day [1] - 29:11 Appeals [1] - 14:3 Action [1] - 2:3 **16-375** [1] - 1:5 APPEARANCES[1] - 1:13 actor [1] - 18:23 18 [2] - 21:12, 30:8 appearances [1] - 2:5 add [2] - 14:25, 20:10 18th [2] - 21:15, 22:16 appellant [1] - 17:14 added [2] - 5:22, 21:19 applicant [1] - 24:13 19th [1] - 22:17 addition [1] - 19:9 application [2] - 6:21, 25:18 1:16-CV-375 [1] - 2:3 additional [1] - 5:22 applied [1] - 23:11 address [1] - 7:4 2 **apply** [7] - 4:24, 5:14, 6:8, 9:21, 13:6, addressed [1] - 25:23 addressing [1] - 23:23 29:7, 29:13 **20** [1] - 21:1 applying [1] - 7:7 adequacy [1] - 5:18 2019 [2] - 21:12, 22:18 approach [1] - 15:9 adequate [3] - 15:6, 21:21, 27:12 **2020** [3] - 1:8, 22:15, 30:8 appropriate [4] - 5:4, 26:20, 28:7, adjust [1] - 15:24 2201 [1] - 26:13 28:23 administrative [3] - 21:22, 25:20, 2202 [1] - 26:14 argue [1] - 15:16 29:11 **27** [1] - 22:18 arguing [3] - 13:21, 14:2, 16:10 adoption [1] - 27:12 27th [2] - 3:3, 21:15 argument [1] - 21:9 adversaries [2] - 12:3, 14:14 28 [2] - 21:14, 26:13 arguments [1] - 14:6 adverse [2] - 6:20, 22:5 ascertainable [1] - 19:18 advised [1] - 22:24 3 aspects [1] - 9:7 advisory[1] - 7:11 assembled [1] - 17:15 **Advisory** [7] - 9:4, 18:22, 23:1, 23:15, 31 [1] - 22:15 assessed [1] - 23:6 23:22, 24:1, 24:8 assessing [1] - 25:5 affect [1] - 6:1 4 attached [1] - 11:25 affected [1] - 25:4 affects [1] - 6:3 attorneys [1] - 18:6 45 [1] - 22:11 authority [3] - 16:11, 19:7, 25:19 affirmed [1] - 27:13 4th [2] - 3:12, 15:25 authority's [1] - 19:6 agencies [3] - 8:1, 23:24, 24:24 authorization [1] - 26:14 agency [4] - 18:8, 22:25, 23:10, 23:16 5 available [1] - 23:7 agree [1] - 9:20 aided [1] - 1:23 **500** [1] - 18:8 В akin [1] - 25:25 AI [1] - 10:9 6 balance [3] - 10:3, 11:2, 11:6 al [4] - 1:4, 1:8, 2:4 balancing [2] - 10:1, 10:10 ALEXANDRIA[1] - 1:3 **60** [1] - 18:9 based [4] - 23:7, 24:17, 25:20, 26:16 **66** [1] - 11:25 Alexandria [1] - 1:7 bases [1] - 15:15 allow [2] - 4:22, 12:15 basis [2] - 15:14, 24:25 9 allows [1] - 27:4 BEFORE [1] - 1:12 **alterations** [1] - 19:12 begins [1] - 26:3 90 [2] - 28:14, 28:17 Amy [2] - 1:15, 2:7 begun [1] - 23:16 analogous [1] - 17:14 believes [2] - 20:15, 28:17 Α analysis [1] - 25:22 belts [1] - 15:8 analyze [1] - 15:18 a.m [1] - 2:2 belts-and-suspenders [1] - 15:8 ANAS[1] - 1:4 Abbas [6] - 1:17, 2:16, 2:21, 15:21, better [2] - 23:21, 24:6 ancillary [1] - 4:11 beyond [1] - 25:9 20:22, 21:1 answer [1] - 2:13 **ABBAS**[12] - 2:15, 2:24, 3:7, 3:20, 4:1, bit [1] - 18:21 **ANTHONY**[1] - 1:12 4:4, 4:8, 4:14, 15:22, 16:17, 20:2, 29:3 blaming [1] - 19:5 anticipated [1] - 24:3 **Abdi** [5] - 17:13, 17:14, 20:16, 20:17, Branch [1] - 25:19 anyways [1] - 16:25

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